

Arizona Centennial Legislation

To underscore the importance of the Centennial, in 2006 the legislature enacted HB 2870, a non-lapsing appropriation of \$2,500,000 to encourage and facilitate commemorative activities and legacy projects. The budget bill language requires that a matching amount of \$5,000,000.00 must be raised from non-state government sources before the appropriation can be released for Centennial work. These sources would be cities, towns and counties, grants from Indian Tribes, federal grants, and the private sector. This expanded support may allow the AHAC to fund designated legacy projects and/or activities.

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) has developed criteria by which to assess proposed legacy projects for official Centennial designation. To be considered for official designation, the project must:

1. Accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history.
2. Be accessible to large numbers of visitors and users.
3. Demonstrate collaboration in the planning.
4. Produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012.
5. Include an educational component.
6. Include a plan for implementation.

When funds are available, a fund allocation procedure will be developed for requesting grants for individual projects already designated as Centennial Legacy Projects (See application on website at www.azCentennial.gov).

Funds from non-state sources for Centennial legacy projects that meet the criteria of the AHAC to qualify as part of its match requirement by the Legislative Council must be deposited in the Office of the State Treasurer through the Arizona State Library. Contributions may be spent as they are collected and still qualify for the required match so long as they are processed according to the law in the Centennial account.

Local government will have a prime responsibility to stimulate and sponsor projects. This will motivate initial funding that will provide the required match to activate the state appropriation to be distributed statewide. The Commission may make grants to local government or organizations that sponsor the official projects after procedural approval by the Arizona Legislative Council.